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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,151	10/16/2007	Martin Brox	I438.122.101/IF02P045WOUS	8215
7590	10/15/2009	Dicke, Billig & Czaja Fifth Street Towers, suite 2250 100 South Fifth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	EXAMINER PHAM, EMILY P	
			ART UNIT 2838	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/15/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/585,151	BROX, MARTIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Emily Pham	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 10-29 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 6/29/2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/30/2007 & 11/29/2006</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 5/30/2007 and 11/29/2006 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

3. FIG 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 10-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilcox et al (USP 5,731,731).

Regarding independent claim 10: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses a voltage regulation system comprising: an input (**VIN 104**) of the voltage regulating system being presented with a first voltage; an output (**VOUT 102**) of the voltage regulation system having the first voltage changed into a second voltage (**VIN changes to VOUT**), which is available to be tapped at the output; a first device (**132, 134**) for generating an essentially constant voltage from the first voltage, or a voltage derived from it (**whole document**); and a further device (**333, 335, 350, 120, 340**) for generating a further voltage from the first voltage or a voltage derived from it.

Regarding independent claim 21: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses 21. A voltage regulation system comprising: an input (**VIN 104**) having a first voltage; an output (**VOUT 102**) having a second voltage; a first device (**132, 134**) for generating an essentially constant voltage from the first voltage; and means (**333, 335, 350, 120, 340**) for generating a further voltage from the first voltage.

Regarding claims 19-20: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the apparatus at its normal operation performing the steps disclosed in claims 19-20.

Regarding claims 11 and 22: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the further voltage generated by the further device can be higher than the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) (**wide ranges of output**) (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claims 12 and 23: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the further voltage generated by the further device is proportional to the first voltage or the voltage derived from it (**333, 335, 350, 120, 340 provides the proportional output**) (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claims 13 and 24: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the further device comprises a voltage divider circuit (**125, 126**).

Regarding claim 14: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) or a voltage derived from it, and the further voltage generated by the further device, or a voltage derived from it, can be used for controlling a voltage regulation circuit device (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 15: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) or a voltage derived from it, and the further voltage generated by the further device, or a voltage derived from it, can be used as a reference voltage for the voltage regulation circuit device (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 16: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses a device for activating and/or deactivating the further device to an activated and/or deactivated state (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 17: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses in the activated state of the further device, the height of the level of the reference voltage used for the voltage regulation circuit device is determined by whichever of the voltages generated by the first and further device, or the voltages derived from them, exhibits the higher level (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 18: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses in the deactivated state of the further device, the height of the level of the reference voltage used for the voltage regulation system circuit device is determined by the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) or the voltage derived from it (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 25: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) and the further voltage generated can be used for controlling a voltage regulation circuit device.

Regarding claim 26: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) and the further voltage generated can be used as a reference voltage (**VREF, VREF2**) for the voltage regulation circuit device (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 27: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses a further device for generating the further voltage from the first voltage and further comprising a

device for activating and/or deactivating the further device to an activated and/or deactivated state (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 28: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses in the activated state of the further device, the height of the level of the reference voltage (**VREF, VREF2**) used for the voltage regulation circuit device is determined by whichever of the voltages generated by the first and further device exhibits the higher level (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Regarding claim 29: Wilcox et al (**FIG 3**) discloses in the deactivated state of the further device, the height of the level of the reference voltage (**VREF, VREF2**) used for the voltage regulation system circuit device is determined by the voltage generated by the first device (**132, 134**) or the voltage derived from it (**line 54 of col. 3 – line 50 of col. 10**).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Heisley et al (USP 6,333,623) discloses complementary follower output stage circuitry and method for low dropout voltage regulator, Connell et al (USP 6,441,594) discloses low power voltage regulator with improved on-chip noise isolation, Watanabe (USP 6,774,713) discloses circuit for producing a reference voltage for transistors set to a standby state.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Pham whose telephone number is (571)270-3046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (7:00AM - 6:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Lewis can be reached on (571) 272 - 1838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jessica Han/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2838
October 2009

EP